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<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/EP99/08381 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 3 November 1999 (03.11.99) <b>(30) Priority Data:</b> 298 19 703.0      4 November 1998 (04.11.98)      DE <b>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):</b> W.L. GORE & ASSOCIATES GMBH [DE/DE]; Hermann-Oberth-Strasse 22, D-85640 Putzbrunn (DE). <b>(72) Inventor; and</b> <b>(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only):</b> OPITZ, Oliver [DE/DE]; Margaritenstr. 1, D-83502 Götting/Bruckmühl (DE). <b>(74) Agent:</b> HARRISON, Robert, J.; Hermann-Oberth-Strasse 22, D-85640 Putzbrunn (DE).		<b>(81) Designated States:</b> AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.</i>

**(54) Title:** LEATHER LAMINATE**(57) Abstract**

A laminate for manufacturing protective apparel comprising a liquid water resistant and water vapor permeable functional layer (40) and at least one leather layer (30) having an outer surface (90) and an inner surface (80), wherein the leather layer (40) is openly hydrophobicized and laminated with its inner surface (80) unmediatedly onto one side of the functional layer (30). The laminate of the invention is permanently liquid water resistant and has a water vapor transmission resistance (Ret) of less than  $600 \times 10^{-3}$  (m<sup>2</sup> mbar)/W. The inner surface (80) of the leather layer (40) is preferably the flesh side.

